

I only wish they wouldn't forget that it's the taxpayers of the community who will be footing most of the bill in return for the jobs. And it'd be nice to let them know once in awhile what's going on.

The Carbondale Mirror will be suspending operation for one week while its owners restructure the local newspaper. According to Paul Starzer, editor of the Mirror, they will publish a new feature magazine-type tabloid newspaper, concentrating more on in-depth features rather than hard news. Paul will remain as a consultant while joining the staff will be Ron Comunale, formerly associated with Pat & Reds. Nan Waters is features editor and Phil Winters will continue as the newspaper's salesman.

Members of council, the city administrator and finance director, met this past week with a representative of Freddy's Garbage Collection, Thompson, to discuss that firm's picking up the contract with the City, if and when the City dissolves the contract with the present carrier, Lackawanna Refuse.

At another meeting in town this week, this one in city solicitor John Cerra's office, representatives of the city met with AFSCME, the union representing former meterman Al Horn. The arbitrator took testimony from all sides and a decision should be forthcoming.

Walter Turonis, who heads the city's street department and doubles as building and health inspector, informed council via letter to solicitor Cerra that he would no longer do the job of building and health inspector since council saw fit to cut the \$325 office expense. At the last council meeting council had moved to reinstate the expense money but the motion was tied to an increase in salary for the street department foreman. Some members of council, while agreeing with the \$325 office expense for the building inspector, disagreed with the salary increase for the foreman unless other salary adjustments were made for the other employees. The motion died for lack of a second.

The bruhaha between the mayor and council over the Blue Cross-Blue Shield benefits may very well end up in court if the Mayor follows through on what he said in his prepared statement Wednesday, about ignoring a council override of his veto. It is expected that council will unanimously override the veto at the next meeting.

One of the touchy subjects at City Hall is the condition of the city's trucks. Everyone is in agreement that they're little more than junk, one of the few things everybody agrees with, but where to get the money for new equipment? And if the money is found, and new equipment purchased, will it, too, be misused the way the city's present equipment is?

Fire Chief Bill Burrell has asked to pass along a request to city residents. Bill says it would be a tremendous help to the city, and especially to the fire bureau, if those residents living near a fire hydrant would volunteer to shovel the snow away from around the hydrant after a heavy snow fall. In case of an emergency, precious time would be saved if the hydrants were not covered with snow.

Congratulations to Bennie's Italian Restaurant which is scheduled to open for business in Forest City on Tuesday. Benny Valerio is the owner and in addition to the standard American fare, plans to provide, "the best Italian food anywhere."

If you like good country music, take a skip up to the Orson Inn (a short distance from Union Dale), on Saturday nights were Carbondale's Tony Catanzaro packs them in.

Belated birthday wishes to insuranceman Bob Stephens. I understand there's another big bite missing from the Big Apple after that celebration. What birthday number was it, Bob?

Encore Theatre is holding auditions for its upcoming "Broadway Revue" show. You can show off your talents Feb. 4 and 5 at 7 p.m. at Allyn Benson's School of the Performing Arts located in the Fortuner building in Childs.

Jay Sara's expertise as a sign painter is evident at the big February Sales spectacular now going on at Wallis Furniture.

And Finally

I've only heard one complaint about the tower clock's bell "waking me up in the morning," but I believe even that mild grumble was in jest. The committee and everyone involved in repairing the clock deserve a huge hand. Or Maybe the ringing of all the bells in the Pioneer City to signify the return of "Grandpa!"